

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 176 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, BROWNE, VULAKOVICH, GORDNER, FOLMER,  
RAFFERTY AND SCARNATI, JANUARY 15, 2015

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 15, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,  
6 providing for historical documents, writings and records use  
7 in classrooms and censorship prohibited.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
12 section to read:

13 Section 1515.1. Historical Documents, Writings and Records  
14 Use in Classrooms and Censorship Prohibited.--(a) No teacher or  
15 administrator in a public school entity shall be prohibited from  
16 using or reading from, during the course of educational  
17 instruction, or posting in a public school building, classroom  
18 or event any of the following or any excerpts or portions of the  
19 following:

20 (i) The national motto.

1     (ii) The national anthem.  
2     (iii) The Pledge of Allegiance.  
3     (iv) The Constitution of the United States and the  
4 Constitution of Pennsylvania.  
5     (v) The Mayflower Compact.  
6     (vi) The Declaration of Independence.  
7     (vii) The writings, speeches, documents and proclamations of  
8 the founders or Presidents of the United States or the founders  
9 or Governors of Pennsylvania.  
10    (viii) Opinions of the United States Supreme Court and  
11 Pennsylvania Supreme Court.  
12    (ix) Acts of the Congress of the United States and acts of  
13 the Pennsylvania General Assembly.  
14    (x) Organic documents from the pre-Colonial, Colonial,  
15 Revolutionary, Federalist and post-Federalist eras.  
16    (b) The use, reading or posting of the types of documents,  
17 writings and records authorized by this section shall be  
18 undertaken for educational purposes only and shall not be used,  
19 read from or posted to promote or establish any religion or  
20 religious belief.  
21    (c) No person may impose content-based censorship of an  
22 American or Pennsylvania historical document, writing or record  
23 based on any religious references contained in such document,  
24 writing or record.  
25    (d) The Department of Education shall immediately distribute  
26 a copy of this section to all school districts, and they shall  
27 then notify all public school teachers of the provisions of this  
28 section.

29     Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.